

HERE'S AN HONEST SENATOR

HE IS IN CAPTIVITY AT THE BIJOU THEATRE.

Tom Wise and Douglas Fairbanks seen in a new play about politics that is full of action and humor and promises to become a popular success.

"The Gentleman from Mississippi," which they put over at the Bijou Theatre last night, may possibly remind you of the rural idylls which exclaim on seeing a camel for the first time: "There ain't no such animal!" It is the story of an honest Senator. At any rate it will remind you of "The Man of the Hour," not to mention plays more remote by David Lloyd and others. But it tells an interesting story nevertheless, and tells it with abundant humor, wholesome sentiment and skilful episode. There is the minimum of talk, the maximum of action. It undoubtedly will be a popular success, and deserves to be.

The authors are Harrison Rhodes and Thomas A. Wise, and Mr. Wise himself plays the part of Senator Langdon of Mississippi, a part quite as humorous as any he has recently played, but with far more dramatic significance, mellowness and value. As a result his acting seemed greatly improved, when perhaps it was only seen again after a lapse of years. At any rate it was vigorous, humorous, picturesque and significant. It rang true.

Douglas Fairbanks was his costar. Mr. Fairbanks played the part of a Washington reporter, shrewd, sceptical and honest, who became the honest Senator's private secretary and confidential adviser. Mr. Fairbanks neither carried a large notebook nor acted like a boor, for which he should receive the thanks of the Gridiron Club. And he walked up to an interview with the true, authentic manner. His neat, quiet, boyish, charming figure made a droll foil to Mr. Wise's slow and round Senator. The conception of these two characters alone, in their delightful relations of youth guiding age, would make the play worth while.

But it has the further recommendation of an interesting story, if not, perhaps, a very plausible one, told by means of brisk and well ordered action. It has suspense, climax, development. The honest Senator has been sent to Washington and put on the Committee on Naval Affairs because though honest he is guileless and will support a bill to put a naval station at Alacoola, Miss., because that is the best place for it.

The real reason in putting it there, however, is to line the pockets of certain other Senators on the committee by a land deal. The Senator's own son and one of his daughters get portions of his money involved in this deal without his knowledge through the plottings of a villain in the House.

But the Senator's secretary, the ex-reporter, gets wise in time and honestly rises to battle. Just how this jovial old Mississippiian is going to get out of the tangle is the final suspense of the play. He is scheduled to speak for the naval station bill in the Senate at 1 o'clock.

At 12:50 he tells his face that he shall announce that he and they have bought up this land to sell back to the Government at cost price, so that nobody can make a cent out of the transaction. They admit defeat. Honesty is triumphant.

Those wise in the devious ways of law-making and law-breaking must decide how near this is to reality. The dramatic reporter may only decide that, save for a somewhat offensive and rather unpalatable emulphing of one of the Senator's daughters to bring about the tangle, the story, such as it is, is told plausibly enough for a popular play, and told with abundant humor and genial, honest sentiment.

A MAY IRWIN COCKTAIL.

otherwise "Mrs. Peckham's Carouse," served at the Garrick Theatre.

Miss May Irwin, whose skill at mixing a cocktail on the stage has in days gone by aroused the envy of those who like such things, provided another sort of cocktail at the Garrick Theatre last night as a curtain raiser preceding "The Mollusc." The latest investigator is a skit by George Ade in which he takes advantage of the temperance agitation in Indiana and elsewhere to develop a joyous condition without using any more of his stock of dramatic material than is necessary. He provided the framework, Miss Irwin's face did much more and the result was a little sketch which kept the audience in an almost continuous chuckle.

The piece, called "Mrs. Peckham's Carouse," begins by showing how hard a temperance campaign hits a Western small city. They all wear the reform ribbon, and some do it through fear of facing the consequences of opinion. The suggestion of hypocrisy is about all the conclusion there is, for the action hinges around the involuntary fall from the water wagon of Mrs. Peckham, one of the demon rum's worst enemies. She is the ablest speaker before the Daughters of Total Abstinence and one of her speeches, which is rehearsed for the audience, is a corker.

But the main situation is her jag. She faints, and two big drinks of whiskey revive her with a developing exhilaration which has been seen on the stage many times. Her facial expression during this scene was far funnier than any of the lines she spoke.

That's about all there is to it. There's no terrible result to the scene. The woman doesn't propose to quit the temperance cause as a consequence, nor does her husband become a sincere advocate of the cause. It's just a little bit of fun for half an hour or so which was designed to cause amusement, and succeeded on account of Miss Irwin's personality.

De Witt C. Jennings, Frank Connor, Mary K. Taylor and H. H. Gilmore, the other actors, did their share well, but it was Miss Irwin who won. Ade only helped a little.

CONDUCTOR FIEDLER HERE.

Comes From Hamburg to Direct the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Max Fiedler, the eminent German conductor, who arrived on the Kronprinz Wilhelm yesterday, comes to be at the head of the Boston Symphony Orchestra during the present season. He is not entirely unknown in this country, as he has conducted two concerts of the Philharmonic Society and made a good impression. He is director of the Philharmonic Society of Hamburg and is now 45 years old. He is a native of Zittau in Germany. He went to the conservatory at Leipzig when 18 to study the piano. He is now at the head of the Hamburg conservatory.

Chance for You to Help.

The convalescent relief committee of Bellevue Hospital asks for donations of clothing and shoes, especially for men, to enable it to send convalescent patients to the country. Packages should be addressed to M. E. Wadley, Bellevue Hospital, and may be sent C. O. D.

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BOOKS AND AUTHORS.

Frances Hodgson Burnett after having spent many years in England at Maytham Hall, famous for its beautiful gardens, has decided to make her permanent residence in America and plans to have her home on Long Island as beautiful as the estate she left in England. Her literary activity is untiring, and among the new books she is to publish is "The Good Wolf," which will appear this week. Harold Siebel is illustrating the story of the Good Wolf, who is a popular hero among little people and will doubtless appear again in later stories.

A new book of peculiar interest to appear this week is the "Chronicles and Memoirs of the Stage," by William Winter. This record of intimate friendships with distinguished men and women will contain reminiscences of Joseph Jefferson, Boucicault, Sothorn, Mary Anderson, Charlotte Cushman, Adelaide Neilson, Lawrence Barrett and many other favorites of the dramatic world. It is the story of a "royal line," written with discernment and charm.

The short stories that Edith Wharton has written during the last four years have just been brought out under the title of "The Hermit and the Wild Woman." There are eight of these stories, the book taking the title from the first one. Mrs. Wharton is a master of the art of short story writing. She is a careful and painstaking craftsman, with neither need nor desire to hurry into print work that has not been thoroughly revised and thoughtfully considered.

"Three of a Kind," Dr. Richard Burton's new book published on Saturday, is the story of a musician, a newsboy and a cocker spaniel. Dr. Burton is professor of English literature at the University of Minnesota and is the author of several books of poems and essays.

The anonymous author of "Sappho in Boston" is a man of letters who has written much and successfully, but preserves his incognito for personal reasons. The book is of the sparkling "Fraulein Schmidt" brand, with an up to date Boston woman for a heroine and a reserved Englishman for a hero. The scene is laid both in America and England.

Hall Caine's autobiography, which he calls "My Story," now appearing in Appleton's Magazine, reaches its second instalment in the October number. The chapter is of special interest, as it tells of the years spent in a Liverpool architect's office, of the "itch to write" that came upon him and what he wrote first. It was during these years too that he first came to know John Ruskin and Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

Mr. Augustus Thomas joins the ranks of the novelists with his new book based upon his play "The Witching Hour." Mr. Thomas has done several other things besides writing novels since he was born in St. Louis. He studied law for two years, he was a page boy in the Forty-first Congress, he worked for some years at practical railroad engineering, and he served an apprenticeship as a special writer, an illustrator and editor on various newspapers. His many plays are well known and his entrance upon the new path of literature among the novel writers is an event of interest. "The Witching Hour" will be published next week.

Mrs. John H. Canfield has written a story for boys to be published next month under the title of "Kidnapped Campers." Mrs. Canfield is the wife of Dr. John H. Canfield, librarian of Columbia. She is the mother of Miss Dorothy Canfield, the short story writer.

Two new books coming from the "Editor's Study" and the "Easy Chair" of Harper's are to be published immediately on the same date. Mr. Henry M. Alden of the "Editor's Study" has prepared a critical work called "Magazine Writing and the New Literature." Mr. Howells of the "Easy Chair" has arranged the sketches written during his recent foreign tour in a volume to be called "Roman Holidays." Blended with the reflections of the late sojourn are some of the youthful impressions of his first visit to Rome some forty years ago.

Octave Thanet writing of "Men as Friends" in the current *Bazar* says: "If there is one trait which Anglo-Saxon men have in common it is their appreciation of comfort. Most men find enough stir and strain and stimulus in their daily life; they want amusement and rest and comfort in their friendships. Friendship is secure only after it becomes a habit of comfort. This is why, it may be, some times men who are not faithful lovers are the most faithful of friends."

Mrs. Humphry Ward's "The Testing of Diana Mallory" is dedicated "To my kind hosts beyond the Atlantic from a grateful traveler." Mrs. Ward's popularity among booklovers in America was well proved by the large audiences that assembled to listen to her during her visit here in the spring. Thoroughly English in personality, cordial but reserved in manner and with a somewhat baffling English accent that was confusing to those who listened to her lecture, she commanded large audiences of notable people and carried home a tidy sum as the result to enrich the Play-ground Association, in which she is so keenly interested.

William S. Maughan, the author of "Jack Straw," had three plays and two books brought out last year. He is now writing a new novel to be published later in the season.

It is a self-evident fact to every one who reads "The Big Fellow" that the hero can be none other than Big Bill. The author of the book went out to the Philippines with Mr. Taft as a critic of the statesman's proceedings. He returned an ardent admirer of the man and his methods. As "The Hon. Peter Stirling" will always be a Cleveland book so "The Big Fellow" will be recognized as in

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many respects a true tale of Taft and some of the important things that Americans have done under his direction in one of our island possessions.

Joseph C. Lincoln, whose new book "Cy Whittaker's Place" was published last week, has been spending the summer at Brewster, Mass., where he has been writing a holiday story. "Cy Whittaker's Place" is a story of Cape Cod life, full of humor and pathos, which will be heartily welcomed by the readers of "Cap'n Eri."

The Bookman's list of best sellers in always interesting as attesting the trend of public opinion in the "average reader" in all parts of the country. Just at present the list is made up of "Mr. Crew's Career," "The Love of the Mask," "The Barrier," "The Coast of Chance," "The Wayfarers" and "Halfway House."

NEWS OF PLAYS AND PLAYERS.

Henry Miller Goes to London to Put on Five Plays.

Henry Miller will play the feminine rôle in the production at the Rejane Theatre in Paris. Mr. Frohman controls the American and English rights of the play.

Charles Frohman's next musical production, the cast of which will be exclusively American, will be "The Dollar Princess." It will be presented here and in London simultaneously. George Edwards will be in charge of the London version.

Rejane will play the feminine rôle in the production at the Rejane Theatre in Paris. Mr. Frohman controls the American and English rights of the play.

Charles Frohman received yesterday the manuscripts of the latest play by Henri Bernstein, the author of "The Thief" and "Samson." It is "Israel," a satire in four acts, and will be acted by one woman and sixteen men. Mme.



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According to accurate reports recently received from London, the First on the List of the seven best selling books in England was the new novel by

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The letter above may be seen in full by visiting the catalogue to the Principal.

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